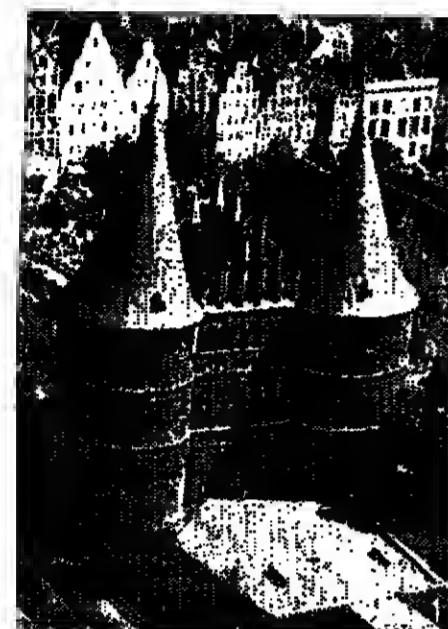


Routes to tour in Germany The German Holiday Route – from the Alps to the Baltic



- 1 Lübeck
2 Melsungen
3 Schwäbisch Hall
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Visit Germany and let the Holiday Route be your guide – from the Alps to the Baltic.



The German Tribune

Hamburg, 31 March 1985
Fifty-fourth year - No. 1173 - By air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

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Ostpolitik: the Soviet Union plays another hand

The Soviet Union is trying to persuade Western European countries to come closer to its own views.

It is calling for priority to be given to security issues in its relations with these countries.

Moscow thinks that by subtle linking of security policy behaviour of a country to its relations with that country, it might be able to succeed, especially as many Western European nations want easier relations with Eastern Europe.

Is the Soviet Union planning to seek relations with Western European countries subject to their security policy? What?

The Bonn Foreign Ministry's question to this question is based on Minister Genscher's talks with Mr Gorbachev after the funeral of his predecessor, Mr Chernenko.

Bonn diplomats and foreign policy experts agree that the Federal Republic of Germany and the Soviet Union outwardly have much in common. They both feel the time is ripe for a new leaf in Ostpolitik, for instance.

But the Soviet Union is more interested in reverting to the detente policy of the 1970s, whereas Bonn is keen to avoid repeating mistakes made a decade or so ago and prefers to emphasise what it hopes will be new about the new era.

Moscow says that security problems must not be disregarded in ordering relations; they must indeed be given immediate consideration.

Bonn results with disapproval that the Soviet Union has disregarded European interests, allowing a "grey" or undefined, intermediate zone to take shape.

The Soviet diplomats say each of these deals with a separate paragraph in its political bureau's records, with special reference being attached to security issues.

Security interests must not, however, be

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■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Mubarak gets nowhere on peace mission

After the rebuff President Mubarak's latest peace bid was given first by the Israelis, then by the Americans when he flew to Washington the Egyptian leader is not expected to have any more success with his appeal for peace to the Iranian revolutionary leader Ayatollah Khomeini.

Within 10 days President Mubarak flew to the United States via France, stopped over in Britain, the Federal Republic of Germany and Italy on his way back and then flew to Amman, where he and King Hussein paid Baghdad an unheralded visit.

He returned home empty-handed from both tours. In Cairo his unaccustomed spate of jet diplomacy is seen as nationalism and as a kind of alibi.

He can now claim at least to have sought to make headway toward a peace settlement even though the prospects were poor.

President Mubarak's peace plan was doomed from the outset inasmuch as it included the PLO, which is recognised neither by the United States nor by Israel.

He proposed a three-stage plan consisting first of talks between a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and US government envoys, then of talks expanded to include Israeli delegates and finally an interarab peace conference, including the Soviet Union.

A US State Department spokesman again made it clear that no Arab delegation must include PLO representatives.

The Americans are said to be interested in a formula that is likely to be rejected by the Arabs. The proposed delegation, it is suggested, might include Palestinians who are not formally PLO members but are accepted by Yasser Arafat.

But what justification would the PLO then retain for its existence if it were to renounce its right to represent the Palestinian people?

After the failure of President Mubarak's US visit the Egyptians are keen to play down the new peace bid he sought in vain to champion in Washington.

A Cairo University political scientist who has close political ties with the President has said the Egyptian leader might have been dealt with shabbily by the United States but describes his three-stage plan as just as ideal.

President Mubarak, he argues, is keen to make sure the Palestinians are not forgotten now international attention is concentrated more on events in the Gulf and in Lebanon.

Before the Egyptian leader flew to Washington King Hussein of Jordan reluctantly endorsed the Egyptian proposals and thereby, as a Lebanese political scientist at the American University in Beirut puts it, approved their failure.

Much the same could be said of the agreement on a joint negotiating position reached not long ago by King Hussein and Mr Arafat.

It calls for an Israeli withdrawal from all territory occupied since June 1967, for a confederation of Jordan and a Palestinian state set up in these territories and for an international peace conference.

The declarations, counter-declarations, criticisms, denials and requests for amendments made by various Palestinian politicians tended more to heighten the confusion than to clarify the viewpoints of either side.

They dealt, for instance, with the recognition of UN Security Council Resolution 242 calling for an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories but not acknowledging the Palestinians' right to a state of their own.

Jordan has called for acknowledgement of the Security Council resolution; the PLO has formally rejected it. All that can be said for sure is that the Israeli government has ruled any such idea out.

Arab and foreign analysts came to suspect that the agreement was realised from the outset by both the Jordanians and the Palestinians to be doomed to failure. So it was no more than a gesture of good will on jointly coming closer to a solution of the Palestinian question.

What the Egyptians, Jordanians and Palestinians currently want, as Arab and foreign analysts see it, is for Egypt, Jordan, Mr Arafat's PLO and Iraq to come close together and form what is sometimes termed an axis or an alliance.

President Mubarak's visit to Baghdad makes sense in this context even though Arab leaders still refuse to exchange ambassadors with him.

In 1978 President Saddam Hussein of Iraq hosted an Arab summit conference at which, following the 1977 Camp David agreement between Egypt and Israel, it was agreed to boycott Egypt.

Iraq would clearly prefer not to break ranks as Jordaan did last September and resume diplomatic ties with Cairo without a resolution to that effect at an Arab summit conference.

The relentless fighting between neighbouring arch-rivals Iraq and Iran has cost the conservative oil sheikhs and petro-monarchies a fortune but they are happy to pay fellow-Arab Iraq whose belligerent behaviour assumed alarming proportions in the pre-war era.

If it were to do so it would particularly upset Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies. But relations between Egypt and Iraq have long improved, given that Iraq needs Egyptian arms assistance in its war with Iran.

President Mubarak wasn't deterred from visiting Baghdad by the fact that

his government has no formal ties with Iraq. He said afterwards that the visit had been made "within the framework of friendship between our two peoples."

An attempt was made by the Egyptians to divert attention from the fact that President Mubarak returned from Baghdad without having been able to reach agreement on a resumption of full diplomatic relations.

Information Minister Saif al Sharif said the visit showed how ready President Mubarak was to set aside formalities. The destiny of the Arab nation did not depend on ambassadorial appointments.

Fresh arms supplies to Iraq are said by the Egyptian leader not to have been discussed either. Iraq needed no further military support.

Over and above a gesture of solidarity with quasi-ally Iraq, President Mubarak sought both by his lightning visit to Baghdad and his failed peace bid to re-emphasise Egypt's claim to a role as regional power.

It is hard to believe that political leaders in the industrialised countries have failed to realise that much of their exports to Iran and Iraq (trucks and aircraft, for instance) have been destined for military use.

It calls for an Israeli withdrawal from all territory occupied since June 1967, for a confederation of Jordan and a Palestinian state set up in these territories and for an international peace conference.

Continued on page 8

Arms-buying has also been a regular

Iran, Iraq fight on as the bodies slide into the sludge

SONNTAGSBLATT

WIRTSCHAFT UND FINANZZEITUNG

CDU CONGRESS

Geissler steals show, women steal attention

1173 - 31 March 1985

THE GERMAN TRIBUNE

1173 - 31 March 1985

THE GER

■ GERMANY

Criticism of 'watered-down' Auschwitz Lie bill

A bill enabling prosecution of people who say that the Nazis did not really kill lots of people has been drawn up. Until now, private complaints could be laid against anyone who uttered the "Auschwitz Lie", but the complainant had to be Jewish. Under the new bill, the onus has been changed. But opponents of the bill charge that it has been watered down because of the width of its proposed application to include, for example, denial of crimes against people driven from the former German territories after the war.

There are few limits to the extent both young and old Nazis will go to hide the truth.

A current example: young right-wing extremists, some wearing replicas of donkey heads, recently paraded in Hamburg with a banner saying: "What an ass I am to believe that Jews were gassed."

The Kampfbund Deutscher Soldaten, a neo-Nazi grouping, has even offered a reward of DM20,000 to anybody who could prove that even one Jew was gassed by the Nazis in the concentration camps.

They would not, of course, accept evidence from Jews, Poles or Germans who oppose Nazi ideals.

Books, brochures and pamphlets denying or playfully down the significance

NÜRNBERGER Nachrichten

of the millionfold murder in Nazi Germany can be frequently found in right-wing extremist circles.

Young people who have not been given a clear picture of the darkest chapter in German history at school or at home are particularly susceptible for this kind of outrageous venom, which is often called the "Auschwitz lie".

Up to now, it has been difficult to legally prosecute this kind of historical misrepresentation.

A democratic state, however, should have the power to ban this kind of propaganda.

Many of the relatives of the survivors or victims of the holocaust who went through Nazi terror themselves find it extremely difficult to hear this sort of allegation.

Most people quite rightly feel that the reappraisal of recent German history cannot primarily be a matter for the courts.

However, the courts cannot just sit back and do nothing if the often demanded "intellectual confrontation" with the roots and consequences of Hitler's inhumane system of terror bears no fruit or even creates a quite open counter-movement.

This gives the "Auschwitz lie" a very low legal status, since defamation is not even regarded as a serious offence and usually punished by imposing a fine.

The Association of German Judges fears that it is going to be "difficult, if not impossible" in practice to prove that those who deny the Nazi crimes have in fact deliberately insulted a specific Jewish person or any other concentration camp victim.

There are also misgivings about the coalition's intention to extend the scope of this law to include all the victims of "other tyrannous or despotic systems".

This broader application above all bears the mark of the CSU, which wanted to see the denial of the crimes committed against those Germans driven out of the former German territories in Eastern Europe pushed too.

However, doubts are in order about the need for such an extension as there is no campaign denying these crimes which in any way resembles the "Auschwitz lie" campaign.

The law's extended area of application is more likely to foster the practice of trying to make exaggeratedly comprehensive reparations to all groups, an approach which has often stood in the way of a real solution in post-war Germany.

What the legislator has now pieced together may soon be giving the courts a headache.

How are those slanderers and libelers to be treated who deny that there is mass murder in Chile or Argentina, that people are butchered to death in Uganda or that people lose their lives in the Soviet sphere of influence?

The SPD's legal expert, Alfred Emerich, is not the only person who fears that the courts could become "referees in disputes on present, past and future systems of rule or social systems".

The coalition got unnecessarily
Continued on page 8

The Minister of Justice, Hans Engelsdorff, (FDP) took up the idea suggested by his SPD predecessor in office and drew up plans to give public prosecutors and judges the tools needed to tackle the task: a special law against the "Auschwitz lie" providing severe penalties for people who deny that murders took place in the concentration camp.

However, what is left of Engelsdorff's plans after a particularly embarrassing political debate is not good enough.

The compromise reached by the government coalition parties does not satisfy demands. The courts are going to find it difficult to do a proper job with the help of the new legal provisions.

The government's legal text has a lot of weak points.

In future, slander and/or libel can be officially prosecuted if somebody is disparaged or defamed "who lost his/her life as a victim of National Socialist or any other tyrannous or despotic rule".

The paper does represent a definite step forward by obliging the public prosecutor to take legal action himself as soon as he is informed of such an offence.

The institution of legal proceedings by the person directly affected is no longer needed to set the wheels of justice in motion.

Admittedly, the fact that the "Auschwitz lie" is not as originally planned treated as a special case under criminal law but simply classed as defamation is worthy of criticism.

It seems rather odd that from now on anyone who disputes the gassing of the Jews will be judged according to the same criteria as someone who calls his neighbour a rascal.

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The coalition got unnecessarily
Continued on page 8

PERSPECTIVE

The proposal

After many years of to-ing and fro-ing on how to prosecute in so-called "Auschwitz Lie" cases, the government parties have reached a compromise.

A bill now being considered provides for prosecution for anyone who insults, slanders, libels or disfigures people who "lost their lives as victims of National Socialist or other forms of tyranny or despotic rule".

The only exception is if relatives of the deceased expressly refuse to allow the public prosecutors to take up the matter legal action.

This not only makes the denial of the murder of Jews in concentration camps during the Nazi dictatorship a punishable offence without the need for an official application, but also punishes the denial of other victims of Nazi terror, for example, resistance fighters.

Contrary to previous intentions, "other forms of tyranny and despotic rule" have also been included in the compromise, mainly at the insistence of the CDU and CSU.

This was apparently an attempt to ensure that the denial of crimes committed against German expellees after the Second World War would also be punished.

In addition, the coalition agreed to ban imports of right-wing extremist publications and Nazi emblems.

The head of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group, Alfred Dregger, who previously declined the law to be水, said: "It will be a matter for the courts how the new law is applied."

Legal experts, however, already detect problems with regard to the wording of the bill.

The legal text has to be formulated in such a way as to enable the courts to apply the law in practice.

Up to now, both the SPD and the Greens have rejected the extension of the offences covered by the bill beyond the "Auschwitz lie".

However, during the Bundestag debate on the bill, opposition parties did not indicate whether they would support or approve it.

The SPD Bundestag member Michael Schmidt as well as Otto Schindler from the Greens criticised the fact that the law treats the unique mass murder of the Jews just like any other crime.

This encourages the practice of trying to make exaggeratedly comprehensive reparations for all groups.

Minister of Justice, Hans Engelsdorff, (FDP) hopes that these new legal provisions will act as a reference point for decisions in the future.

Soon there will be no more survivors of the holocaust able to tell of their experiences.

This must be prevented by "offensive" legal stipulations to protect the Jewish people and Germany's image.

Non-Nazi publications would increase efforts and "distort the past" in the most disgusting way.

Burns feels there is too much "unfairness" in this respect.

The Federal Republic of Germany today can only endure "if we do not

US ambassador Burns talks about Germany

DIE WELT

• The Europeans - the ambassador does not limit his comments to Germany this time - are "less prepared than Americans to take risks". If a business venture fails in Germany or Europe, it's "the end of the road".

"In America, you get a second or even third chance", said Burns. "Europeans are pretty conservative."

However, Arthur Burns does have a few optimistic things to say about the West German economy.

He acknowledges the efforts being made to remedy the faults: the pruning of social spending, the planned tax reforms, the privatisation projects, the Employment Protection Law - all of which make him feel "optimistic about the country's future".

Burns frankly admits: "Impatient as I am, I feel that these changes are too slow".

In contrast to this sober analysis of the economic situation, Burns talked about topics such as reunification, patriotism or the stability of democracy in the Federal Republic of Germany.

In vivid words, Burns stated: "Patriotism, the love of one's own country, is a natural and constructive impulse; for it gives us hope for the future, hope for ourselves, hope for our families, our communities, our own country."

"Nationalism is a different matter altogether... The Nazi past is something no-one ever wishes to see again. However, that has nothing to do with the question of patriotism." Chancellor Kohl should be congratulated for once again using the word "Vaterland".

Arthur Burns also wishes to congratulate German democracy for he feels that his recently passed the test of its stability with flying colours.

The German-American relationship is in an "excellent" state; in fact, it is probably difficult to find a better one in the whole post-war period.

The quality of this relationship owes a great deal to the relationship between President Reagan and Chancellor Kohl.

"Both", Burns points out, "have very much the same philosophical position. Both are by nature optimistic, like to tell stories, and do not like getting bogged down in unnecessary details."

Burns has the deepest respect for former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

Admittedly, however, anyone with an ear for nuances will have noticed that there was a touch of criticism in Burns' praise for Schmidt.

The older of the two Grand Masters of global economic analysis expressed his regret at Schmidt's often sharp-tongued approach to the Americans.

In his eyes, this was frequently exaggerated and counterproductive.

Burns showed just how closely foreigners keep an eye on their German contemporaries when asked about his most unpleasant experience during the last four years in Bonn.

The Berlin population knew that the acceptance of the Soviet offer would have meant the loss of their freedom."

Young Germans should be "proud of the sacrifices made by their parents and grandparents after the war".

The ambassador is known to be con-



Ambassador Burns (left) and Chancellor Kohl... changes needed, Herr Chancellor.

(Photo: dpa)

By no means discretely, Burns passed comment on the accusation that the Americans are moving away from the Europeans and towards the Asians.

The economics professor pointed out that this region has the world's fastest-growing markets and the most liberal economies.

However, Europeans should take care not to draw the wrong conclusions from this fact.

"You overlook the fact that even though our money is in Asia our heart and a substantial amount of money too is in Europe."

"Our interest in the Far East may be growing, but our interest in Europe is not one iota less." And anyway: why the complaints about the American drift towards the Asians? "Follow our exam-

Too-many holidays, too-high taxes, too-low profits and too-strong unions?

ple", Burns advises the Europeans, "move into this region too!"

The security ties between Europe and America are so important to Burns that he openly criticises one of his friends, Senator Sam Nunn, for trying to spur on the Europeans to increase their defence spending by hinting at the possibility of reducing the number of American troops in Europe.

"By doing this, Nunn is threatening the Europeans", Burns remarks, in blatant disregard of the maxim that "you should never injure somebody else's pride."

"I feel that Nunn's approach is the wrong way to go about things", says Burns, "even though I share Nunn's objective: to persuade the Europeans to do more for our common defence."

Looking refreshed as if had just had an "intellectual sauna", Burns waited for the final and predictable question: does the almost 81 year-old ambassador feel that his successor, 38 year-old Richard Burt, will do a better job?

Will Burt, currently director for European affairs in the State Department, be able to adequately fill the gap?

Like Burns, Burt is not a careerist, but was lifted into the new position by the grace of presidential decision, very much in the style of an absolutist monarchy.

The grand old man Burns was apparently ready for this question; his answer at any rate sounded well-prepared: "My successor, Richard Burt, is a brilliant young man, and I am sure he will make a good showing." Thomas Kielinger

(Die Welt, Bonn, 18 March 1985)

■ LABOUR

Employers 'face disincentives to hire'

RHEINISCHER MERKUR

A record amount of overtime is being worked in West Germany in spite of record unemployment of 2.6 million.

A big reason is that it is cheaper than hiring extra staff. A firm can simply stop overtime during slack periods. This is cheaper than putting off staff.

Legislators and administrators are worried about this trend. Employment Minister Norbert Blüm says the social idea of making it difficult for a firm to lay people off has hefty unsocial consequences.

He wants it to be possible for firms to be able to make contracts with workers for stipulated periods of up to 18 months.

However, there are a whole host of other regulations discouraging employers from hiring staff, according to a study by a Bonn-based institute and the Koblenz chamber of commerce.

Two hundred small to medium-sized firms within the Koblenz area were questioned.

The overwhelming conclusion was that employers are put off hiring because of a great number of official hindrances.

The effects of a whole cluster of social legislation oppressed many firms. So did the many changes in regulations.

Laws in three areas were found to be the main culprits in either causing management to defer decisions or not make them at all.

They were those involving sickness payments, badly-handicapped people and firing staff.

In addition, legislation protecting pregnant women discouraged firms from hiring young women.

Managements were concerned at the abuse of sick pay laws (firms pay the first six weeks off, after which wages are paid by the health insurance schemes) and tend to introduce mechanisation where possible in preference to people.

The survey confirmed what experts have long known: many firms introduce high cost rationalisation investment to avoid the cost of paying for ill workers over extended periods.

Many businessmen described their personal experiences in the survey. One company had more than once sacked a worker, who had then gone sick and had therefore drawn full pay for weeks.

In cases where the full six weeks' sick pay was drawn and the worker was required to go to an independent doctor for another opinion, a sudden recovery would take place.

Employers were tending to take on older women because of the stiff regulations governing pregnant women.

One company reported that one or two more regular workers were needed, but social legislation excluded this.

"We are getting help in production from four temporary workers," said one company director.

Another director said that plans to expand had been scrapped because of regulations that made it financially im-

possible. He said: "This has prevented the creation of eight jobs."

The view is that the Kohl government should halt the further development of social legislation when it affects businesses. But there can be no talk of putting a stop to this.

Plans are in the pipeline for the introduction of up to a year off for bringing up children. According to Family Affairs Minister Heiner Geissler this will be linked to a job guarantee.

The intention might be lafty. The effect is less so.

Employers do not like the job guarantee one little bit. It limits their staff flexibility even more. This applies to small and medium-sized undertakings.

The unpleasant consequence is that employers will not take on young women.

Geissler tries to weaken this argument by reference to experience abroad. He says that in some European countries, job guarantees already existed. And yet the number of women employed in these countries was not lower than in West Germany.

Geissler's percentages alone do not much. They must at least be divided up into age groups. Even then a comparison has doubtful results because the social systems of the various countries are very different.

The total economic harm done by the excessive social legislation is not known. But there are reliable estimates what the six-week sickness payment obligation costs.

According to the social report for 1983 remuneration under this heading cost employers a good DM23 billion. By 1987 it will be DM29 billion.

These costs are a growing part of personnel costs.

The Institute for the German Economy in Cologne reckons that supplementary payments, including items such as sick pay, reached record levels last year.

In the manufacturing industries it has climbed 1.3 per cent to 79.6 per cent of a month's wages or salary. This year it will reach 80 per cent.

Between 1966 and 1984, additional personnel costs increased on average a good ten per cent per year.

That is colossal: in 1966 these costs were DM4,000 per worker. Last year they were almost DM24,000.

Complaints from trade and industry that the government is responsible are not quite correct. It is true that in the last few years additional costs for personnel have not remained static — mainly the social welfare contributions made by the employer — but they have increased less than wages and salaries.

Company executives moan loud and long about social welfare costs, but they say very little about, for example the fact that they have allowed holidays to increase so much that that is now costing them just as dearly as for pensions and sickness insurance. Paul Bellinghausen

(Rheinische Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 16 March 1985)

Continued from page 4

bogged-down in its compromise paper. What was needed was a political signal that the Federal Republic of Germany is not willing to allow the historically unique genocide carried out by the Nazis to be played down.

The final result is a law which treats this horrendous atrocity just like any "other" crime.

This is not exactly a convincing move on the eve of 8 May, the day marking the new beginning for all Germans following the barbarity of the Hitler era.

Joachim Hauck

(Nürberger Nachrichten, 19 March 1985)

A 50-year-old tells about life on the dole

Richard Mayer is 50 years of age, slim, bearded, friendly, unmarried and unemployed.

We are sitting in his modest flat. He is wearing a knitted jacket and a track suit. The fire is turned down as low as possible.

The intention might be lafty. The effect is less so.

Employers do not like the job guarantee one little bit. It limits their staff flexibility even more. This applies to small and medium-sized undertakings.

The whole business of being unemployed knocks a man round," he says. The routine of his life has gone.

"When you are working you don't have to think. The alarm clock rings and you get up and go off to work. In the evening you can do what you like. And now? In the morning you don't know where to begin. Midday nothing and the evening as well.

"I don't know if it is easier for the young people. They are probably not so fixed in their ways."

Mayer worked in the steel industry in the Saar from his youth. He began as a rolling mill worker. He is a skilled man and earned DM1,500 per month in shifts with only 13 Sundays a year free.

Then came the steel crisis and mass dismissals.

He wasn't one of those sacked, but he saw the writing on the wall and went to the labour office for advice.

"They said I should get some qualifications. Otherwise the future would be bleak."

He made up his mind. He left the steel industry and moved to Frankfurt to be retrained as an electrician.

After two years he passed his examinations. But he could not get a job: "People turn up their noses at people my age," he said.

He found a temporary job for three months. Then he had to look round again. He wrote for every suitable job he saw in the papers.

One day he was given an interview — and he got the job.

For two years, he worked for a surveying and measuring technology company for two years, testing breakdowns and repairing defect instruments. He enjoyed the work.

"One Friday afternoon the foreman came to me and said that I was wanted in the personnel office."

Hundreds of fellow workers were apparently being made redundant. Mayer was not long in the personnel office. He had no children. No problems there. Out.

Did he think that the man in the personnel office was in any way disturbed at having to release people?

Mayer said: "No, for them it's just a matter of figures. I did not notice they were particularly concerned."

He set about applying for jobs, ringing up firms that put advertisements in the papers. More often than not he was not asked to come for an interview, although he had good references.

He collected all the rejections in a file. His energy did not last long.

He said: "After two months I could not get up enough enthusiasm to pick up the papers and sit down and write after jobs. That sounds odd, but it is true. Somehow you get the guts knocked out of you."

He had become unemployed at the end of March last year. At the end of June he was taken on by a Frankfurt firm, where he worked in quality control again, testing electronic control equipment.

The alarm clock was ringing again.

Richard Mayer was back in the room that he needed.

Then last December, on the 7th, the foreman said that he had to go to the personnel office. "I think I know why they mean."

He was told that his job would be lost. He was holding off until they came to him over by a computer. As he sat in the office, he was confused over what cars will last to come he had to be the first to leave.

He was given a week's notice. As he had taken all his holidays, he could not be fitted with what (and when) he wanted to do.

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■ MUSIC

More Bach than bite: story of a half-finished chord

This year sees the 300th birth anniversary of three outstanding Baroque musicians. Handel's was last month, Scarlatti's is in October. This month, on 21 March, it is the turn of Johann Sebastian Bach, arguably the greatest composer of them all. This article is by Helmut Rilling, director of the International Bach Academy. Professor Rilling has recorded all 194 Bach cantatas on 100 gramophone records for which he has just been awarded the Grand Prix du Disque in Paris. He here deals with Bach as a church-musician and with how the composer dealt with the basic Christian tenets.

We are naturally concerned to a special extent with the value and special significance of Johann Sebastian Bach in this, the 300th anniversary year of his birth.

One overriding answer to this question is provided by the orderly quality of his music, a characteristic even the untrained ear can readily appreciate.

Anyone who listens to Bach's music will be struck by the clarity of its structural patterns. Yet this orderly quality is never limiting or restrictive; it is a mainstay of his creative imagination.

A second answer to the question of Bach's importance is the fact that he, more than any other composer, has incorporated and summarised in his music the styles of music past and contemporary.

A third would be that his work has exercised a substantial influence on music written since.

In the subsequent history of music, up to and including the present, there have been no major composer or musician who has been able to ignore him.

A special aspect of Bach's importance would seem to me to be the subject of his life's work: church music and Christian beliefs.

For many people today the church and its services have forfeited the keen interest shown in them by past generations. But that need not necessarily be equated with a fundamental lack of interest in the Christian message of faith, hope and charity.

Maybe Bach's music provides a level of preoccupation with these ideas that is sufficiently non-committal not to require a profession of faith.

Yet Bach's personal preoccupation with these basic Christian tenets is certainly the starting-point of an interest that sought ideas and guidance.

From his earliest years of musical activity Bach concentrated on the organ chorale.

He was able to follow in the footsteps of Dutch master Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck, 1562-1621, and his pupils, a tradition leading up to and including Samuel Scheidt, 1587-1654, and Dietrich Buxtehude, 1637-1707.

The traditional forms that took shape in this canon were extremely varied, and Bach took them over without fundamentally adding to them.

But in one respect he went far beyond his predecessors. The sense and emotion in the lyrics that accompanied the chorale melodies exerted a decisive influence on the form his chorales took.

The 45 movements in his *Orgelbüchlein*,

leit, composed in Weimar, follow the course of the ecclesiastical year. He invariably succeeded not only in illustrating the meaning of his chorale texts but also in interpreting their meaning.

His *O Mensch, bewein dein Sünden groß* is solemn and quiet in its meditation on the Passion, his *Durch Adams Fall ist ganz verderbt* is dogmatic in its obduracy and his *Herr Gott, nun schéußt den Himmel auf* so vividly expresses Simon's desire to go to Heaven.

Bach always succeeds in giving vocal and musical expression to the inexpressible.

His oratorios were almost invariably written to expand music for divine service beyond the framework of the customary cantata for special high days and holy days.

His passions, first performed on Good Friday 1724 and 1727, and his oratorios composed for Easter, Ascension and Christmas all set the gospel text to music as the starting-point for reflections designed to emphasise the special significance of the day.

The comprehensive way in which Bach accomplishes this task is particularly apparent nowadays when his oratorios are performed both separately from church and divine service and, increasingly, at a time of the year other than those for which they were intended.

Each oratorio has distinctive and unmistakable features. His dramatic St John's Passion points theologically beyond Good Friday to Easter and differs totally in objective from his St Matthew's Passion with its incomparable contemplation of the stations of the Cross and lamentation at the death of Christ.

Coutous written for Christmas, Easter, Whitsun and minor holy days are particularly explicit in where they belong.

Within the larger group of cantatas written for ordinary Sundays in the church year, with their references to readings and gospel texts, Bach's interest in specific topics is clearly apparent.

One such topic is the problem of belief and doubt. Unlike church music composed before his time, by Heinrich Schütz for instance, Bach's views are not inevitably affirmative.

In his Cantata No. 109, *Ich glaub, lieber Herr*, the portrayal of doubt and disbelief in the tenor recitative and aria is so expressive that the counterpoint in the following movements has great difficulty in holding its own.

A second sector on which Bach particularly concentrates is man's personal relationship with God.

Starting with the idea outlined in the Song of Songs Jesus is viewed as the bridegroom of the soul.

Bach devotes a number of duet cantatas to the dialogue between them, with the part of the soul sung by the soprano and that of Christ, in keeping with church music tradition, by the bass.

The third major topic that permeates Bach's cantatas like no other is the attempt to come to terms with the phenomenon of mortality and death.

The need to do so in everyday life was doubtless more immediate in his day than in our own; of Bach's 20 children 11 died during the composer's lifetime.

That was part of his job from his early years in Mühlhausen, Thuringia, until his late period in Leipzig. But his most



Tricked by his children . . . Bach.

(Photo: Metropol)

Fritz Lang is making a come-

back

(Photo: Metropol)

to an old film.

Fritz Lang did not look like a guru,

but he became one to an adoring fan club.

Whoever cinéastes ever meet his name would crop up again.

Jean-Luc Godard, who at the end of the 1950s was the leading director of a nouvelle vague, said about Fritz Lang: "He is the cinema."

And he was right.

He directed films such as *M*, *Metropolis* and *Nibelungen*, from

the beginning enhancing the art of film.

He created the ABC of film language

for film-makers all over the world.

His other viewpoint is that Christ's resurrection is a guarantee of man's own, and in keeping with the soul's碌deggom mysticism a heartfelt desire for death is expressed.

The death knell is tolled in many

Bach's cantatas, rendered by the genius of the string instruments and most intensely in the funeral ode BWV 108.

But with pleasurable anticipation.

Bach incomparably expresses a longing for death in the tenor of

Schlage doch bald, gewünschte Stunde.

All these constrictions have a prison-

Leben.

Thus Bach's cantatas amount to no

more than a mere consequence of the com-

poser's desire for "regulated church music."

He goes well beyond the example of

theological viewpoints, both giving

expression to basic human problems

and offering approaches to their solu-

tion.

If this, his tercentenary year, were

to make us take a closer look at the

largely unexplored legacy of Bach

then, in my opinion, both our

understanding of Bach and our under-

standing of ourselves would stand

to benefit.

Let me conclude by retelling one

of the most gripping scenes in

Egon Günther's three-part 4 1/4-

hour television film, *Morenga*, lasts just

16 seconds.

Morenga, a smart little fellow of the

tribe of the Hottentots, has stolen

the cattle of Jakobus, a simpleton of the

same tribe.

Without warning, he shoots the Ger-

man protégé, Lüdemann, before he

can draw his pistol.

Morenga doesn't see any injustice in

what he has done. He has some idea that he has on his

side the right of a persecuted person.

The Prussian persecutors see things

differently. Born along with coltions

for the fatherland they invoke what was la-

be "German South-West Africa"

as a fiefdom and conduct themselves as

colonialists.

Soon after Namaland was declared a

German protectorate in 1884 they be-

gan to take the land from the indigenous

people, the Hereros, and eventually

murdered them.

At the end of a murderous

campaign against the tribe, led by Gen-

eral Trotha in the autumn of 1904,

122,000 were left of 100,000 tribes-

men. All the others died of hunger and

after they were encircled by the

soldiers in the Omaheke desert.

In the same year, 1904, the Nama he-

rebelled and defended themselves and one of

their most valiant leaders was the bas-

ketball player Jakobus.

Has anyone seen justice?

(Photo: WDR)

■ THE CINEMA

New lease of life for the late Fritz Lang

Fritz Lang's film *Metropolis*, made in 1926, is again being shown in cinemas. It is a work of art that still has significance today. Who was Fritz Lang?

like quality, where people are forced to be inevitably at the mercy of a pre-arranged destiny.

In his very first film of 1921, *Der Untergang Tod* (*Tired death*), that broke away from serial filming, there were these monumental walls and rooms of glaring light.

Before he made films Fritz Lang wrote film scripts for the Berlin Decline film company. Until he left Germany in 1933 his wife Theo von Harbou wrote the scripts for his films. She used sources from German Romanticism while the settings and acting displayed the influence of expressionism upon him.

In Hollywood Fritz Lang met an old friend from the beginning of the 1930s — the poet Bertolt Brecht. They had together stormed through the studios of Nauaberg, along Friedrichstrasse and the Kurfürstendamm, Lang dressed in leather gaiters and a check lumberjack's coat, Brecht in a worn-out leather jacket.

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EDUCATION

Bleak career outlook for university graduates

RHEINISCHER MERKUR

Only one university graduate in three is likely to find a job suiting his or her qualifications over the next 15 years, says a still-to-be-issued government report.

Last year, the universities turned out 130,000 graduates; 9,500 went straight on the dole.

This figure is not as bad as it has been over the past few years, but it doesn't tell the whole truth.

Most unemployed university leavers are not entitled to unemployment benefit so many don't even bother to apply for it.

Others stay on at university. The longer they wait, the better it definitely won't be. A storm is brewing.

The report, commissioned by the joint educational planning commission of the Bonn and Land governments, is still confidential, but its message is bleak.

Until a few years ago graduates could generally pick and choose and virtually set up their own job market. Political scientists and psychologists did so no less successfully than teachers.

Then, when the economy began to falter, things changed. Graduates with specialist qualifications were the last to be sacked, almost invariably weathering the minor vicissitudes of the economic cycle.

Now a third rule of thumb seems to be coming into its own. It is that when the economy starts to pick up few groups are hired as reluctantly as graduates.

The position is particularly problematic in the public service. In 1982 just over 60 per cent of graduates were in public service. Between 1978 and 1982 the proportion of graduates on civil service and local government payrolls increased from 20.7 to 21.9 per cent.

If college (as opposed to university) graduates are disregarded, the stampede to find a safe government job is even more striking.

Roughly two university graduates in three have sought and found public service employment.

Continued from page 11

including a one-time anarchist (the old soldier Wenstrup played by Edwin Noe) and a pacifist (his mate Gottschalk played by Jacques Breuer).

In the famine-stricken south of Prussian Africa the latter is worried about "moral innocence". As a consequence the spot-light is cast upon him as one of the first conscientious objectors.

As he cannot bear the misery of occupation he deserts from the troop and goes about as a vagabond, returning finally to his homeland. That is the end of the film after exactly two hundred and fifty-five minutes and nine accords.

The story is taken from the 1978 novel by Uwe Timm published by Autoren Edition entitled *Morenga*. The film has two aspects, fantasy and anti-Wilhelmine irony.

Timm has since said that the book cannot be regarded, must not be re-

ference to the construction industry being in the doldrums. Limits to growth are in sight before growth has even begun to any great extent.

The Bonn Economic Affairs Ministry has drawn the most drastic inference from these findings. It advises engineers to aim at dual qualifications, meaning an apprenticeship as well as a degree. Then they might hope to find a skilled job in a craft trade.

The Labour Ministry is broadly critical of universities for producing graduates with an educational shirksfall that makes them hard to place in the labour market.

There has certainly been a rapid increase in the number of graduates who have decided to learn something else as well.

In 1983 there were nearly twice as many second-time learners as in 1980. Their supplementary courses were in subjects ranging from computers to languages.

There can be no doubt whatever that the ball is now in the universities' court.

The reform of university studies regularly embarked on and almost as regularly abandoned might not create new jobs but it could help to dispel misgivings in small and medium-sized firms about hiring graduates.

In America and Japan universities have long monitored how graduates get on. Contacts with potential employers are arranged at an early stage — with striking success. In Germany not even a start has been made for the most part.

The report is critical of universities for not paying the working world due attention. Business studies departments are said to concentrate too exclusively on training students for jobs with large companies.

There is general criticism of universities for concentrating on salary-earning jobs. Only a handful of universities, such as Bonn and Cologne, provide early information about the prospects of setting up in business on one's own.

That is unquestionably a serious shortcoming. Only one self-employed person in 11 is a graduate at present. No-one can doubt for a moment that an agonising reappraisal is called for here.

But the report overshoots the mark in ringing the praises of the "new self-employed." Mention is made, for instance, of refugees for battered wives.

The Labour Ministry is enthusiastic about wholesale stores and cycle workshops. The Economic Affairs Ministry curtly notes that "this section is definitely overrated."

Paul F. Reitze
(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt,
Bonn, 9 March 1985)

garded, as an introduction to the current situation between Grootfontein and the Orange River in decadent Namibia.

Director Egon Günther has been able to save only a little of the wit and fantasy. The whole is overlaid by marginal events, boozing and whoring, by the continuous heat and the military problems of reserves, by Wenstrup's fads and Gottschalk's scruples, as well as droll gun fighting.

There is a lot of shooting in this film, on foot and from horseback, from machine guns (from Namibia) from pistols (from Ingolstadt) and even with a small canon (from the Munich Army Museum).

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THE GERMAN TRIBUNE

13

Chance to give economics the second degree

Graduates who would like to take a second degree in economics or apply to take part in a new project Kiel University's Institute of international economic affairs.

Unlike private enterprise ventures such as Witten-Herdecke University, the Ruhr or the Business Studies College in Koblenz, the Kiel course is for graduates only.

It is a 10-month course in international economic relations. The four take 23 postgraduate students, enrolling last autumn.

The Kiel project differs from previous ventures in a further respect. They are starting from scratch, whereas Kiel has its infrastructure at the ready.

It includes lecture theatres and a library, not to mention close ties with other research institutions, says Dr. Walther Bongartz of Konstanz University department of psychology and sociology.

So Kiel too can lay claim to having started something new, says project director Hartmut Lehmann.

In addition to such individual instances hypnosis can evidently be put to good use in medicine as a painkiller.

An American experiment involving 49 children and juveniles has shown that hypnosis can be used in painful treatment of the backbone and bone marrow; both to combat fear of treatment and to reduce perceived pain.

Hypnosis is nothing new, although Dr. Bongartz said research on the phenomenon was strictly limited and had not much headway.

A basic feature was discovered over 200 years ago, but what really helped it and how it can be harnessed to treat the sick are riddles that yet to be fully solved.

Patients are agreed, however, that hypnosis cannot be equated with a state of sleep.

Electric currents in the brain of a hypnotised person can be clearly distinguished from those of someone who is not hypnotised.

It would seem to explain why only some respond at all to hypnosis, while others do not.

Research on this aspect of the phenomenon cannot even be said to have reached the stage at which there might be talk of speculation having some basis.

That would seem to explain why only some respond at all to hypnosis, while others do not.

Lengthier courses costing more would make it increasingly difficult for interested potential students, regardless of whether they had to pay their own way or were backed by grants.

Many of the first year's intake have benefited from grants. Some are backed by firms or institutions they work for, few are paying their own way.

The first intake consists of 23 students from 13 countries. The emphasis is on macroeconomics in open economies, the international monetary system and international financial markets.

Dr. Bongartz is inclined to roughly equate hypnosis with relaxation or meditation. He sees it as a bid by the individual to concentrate on certain things to the exclusion of all others.

It might arguably be compared with the techniques by which the body and the mind seek protection from the threat of a demand that is too much for them by simply ignoring certain circumstances.

Under hypnosis people can also come to terms with evident contradictions, as the following comparison indicates.

When people are told under hypnosis that there is no furniture in a room they will walk very gingerly round where a table might stand.

People who aren't hypnotised will stumble against the table, not because they can't see it but because they imagine that is expected of them.

It may prove possible to put these characteristics to use, although as yet findings are based on only a handful of experiments.

One spectacular case is that of a woman who was abducted and raped. Under hypnosis she was able to recall details that led to the arrest of her kidnappers.

In addition to such individual instances hypnosis can evidently be put to good use in medicine as a painkiller.

An American experiment involving 49 children and juveniles has shown that hypnosis can be used in painful treatment of the backbone and bone marrow; both to combat fear of treatment and to reduce perceived pain.

Professor Dörner has, for instance, castrated male rats that showed homosexual behaviour as adults when they were given androgens, or male hormones.

The theory is that a lack of androgen at the crucial ante-natal stage of sex centre development can lead to male homosexuality.

A shortage of androgen at this stage is said to lead either to bisexuality or to a reduced sex drive, while an overdose of male sex hormones can lead to female homosexuality.

Many behavioural research scientists have come to accept that the findings of such experiments may be applied to man. Professor Neumann attributes this to disappointment.

Behavioural research scientists have largely failed in their attempts to change sexual orientation so, he argues, they have accepted the endocrinological theory instead.

Whether there is anything at all to be gained from attempts to change the sexual orientation of homosexuals is, of course, another matter entirely.

Vague connections that appear to arise when male homosexuals' case histories are reviewed must be called into question on methodical grounds, Professor Neumann says.

They include the tentative view that stress during pregnancy may trigger homosexuality among male progeny.

Practical experiments are ruled out on ethical grounds. Pregnant mothers can hardly be given hormone treatment to see whether their babies will turn out to be homosexual or whatever.

Above all, he argued in Göttingen, parallels between the sexual behaviour of mice and men were impermissible.

The causes of sexual imprint, inasmuch as they are of scientific interest, are definitely extremely complex among humans and probably include both biological and social factors.

Professor Neumann is afraid that hormone theories may continue to gain support for as long as sexology fails to come up with more promising explanations.

Justin Westhoff

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 9 March 1985)

MEDICINE

A lot of inflated ideas about hypnotism

RHEINISCHE POST

Any claims and beliefs about hypnosis are greatly exaggerated, says Dr. Walther Bongartz of Konstanz University.

Under hypnosis people are well aware of what they are doing. They are not, as generally imagined, likely to develop superhuman powers. The hypnotist can't order them to do anything against their will.

Hypnosis consists of concentrating on a single sector and largely ignoring other perceived stimuli, says Dr. Walther Bongartz of Konstanz University department of psychology and sociology.

Experiments he has conducted show, for instance, that memory cannot be inhibited under hypnosis, whereas individual perception of the outside world is unchanged.

Hypnosis is nothing new, although Dr. Bongartz said research on the phenomenon was strictly limited and had not much headway.

A basic feature was discovered over 200 years ago, but what really helped it and how it can be harnessed to treat the sick are riddles that yet to be fully solved.

Patients are agreed, however, that hypnosis cannot be equated with a state of sleep.

Electric currents in the brain of a hypnotised person can be clearly distinguished from those of someone who is not hypnotised.

It would seem to explain why only some respond at all to hypnosis, while others do not.

Lengthier courses costing more would make it increasingly difficult for interested potential students, regardless of whether they had to pay their own way or were backed by grants.

Many of the first year's intake have benefited from grants. Some are backed by firms or institutions they work for, few are paying their own way.

The first intake consists of 23 students from 13 countries. The emphasis is on macroeconomics in open economies, the international monetary system and international financial markets.

Dr. Bongartz is inclined to roughly equate hypnosis with relaxation or meditation. He sees it as a bid by the individual to concentrate on certain things to the exclusion of all others.

It might arguably be compared with the techniques by which the body and the mind seek protection from the threat of a demand that is too much for them by simply ignoring certain circumstances.

Under hypnosis people can also come to terms with evident contradictions, as the following comparison indicates.

When people are told under hypnosis that there is no furniture in a room they will walk very gingerly round where a table might stand.

People who aren't hypnotised will stumble against the table, not because they can't see it but because they imagine that is expected of them.

It may prove possible to put these characteristics to use, although as yet findings are based on only a handful of experiments.

One spectacular case is that of a woman who was abducted and raped. Under hypnosis she was able to recall details that led to the arrest of her kidnappers.

In the long term the project is intended to be self-supporting, paying its way from course fees. Prospects would improve dramatically if both graduates and potential employers were to be interested.

Firms and institutions would, it is hoped, consider seconding staff to courses, which was why it had been decided to limit the course to a single year.

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Dr. Bongartz

FRONTIERS**Bible 'doesn't say ministers must not be homosexual'**

The Bible does not say that a person cannot be a minister merely because he or she is homosexual, says a Göttingen theologian.

Manfred Josuttis, Professor of Theology, told a meeting of the Tutzing Evangelical Academy in Nuremberg that homosexuals were no longer treated as criminals.

But the Evangelical Church had given itself away in a pamphlet it had produced entitled: *Gedanken und Maßnahmen zum Dienst von Homophilen in der Kirche* (Ideas and Steps towards including Homosexuals as Church Officers).

This was a "terribly well-meant" title, but it shocked him deeply. It was "extremely inhuman" and showed that discrimination continued.

In West Germany, homosexual acts among consenting males have been legal since 1974 (they have always been for women).

However, they still feel oppressed and forced out of the mainstream of society.

They also feel increasingly shut out of the churches, both Evangelical and Catholic. This applies not only to those who aspire to church office, but also those who are simply believing Christians.

This is despite the fact that the churches both declare that homosexuals are people like anyone else.

Representatives of the Evangelical work group on homosexuality agree with Professor Josuttis. They refer to an

**NÜRNBERGER
Nachrichten**

example of persecution in Hanover last year when two ministers were sent on extended leave after their homosexualities became known.

The work group says this attitude contradicts the Christian message of brotherly love because Jesus went to the Cross for homosexuals just as much as for anyone else.

Homosexuality, says the group, is neither a sin nor an illness. It is merely an expression of human sexuality.

A leaflet distributed at the conference was unequivocal at supporting this view.

It said that the church should change what it described as its simplistic and incompetent utterances on the subject.

Prejudice and ignorance should be ended through dissemination of more information.

It urged solidarity with homosexuality and the abolition of all laws dealing specifically with homosexuality.

It was no wonder that Adolf Sperl, a member of the Bavarian church synod,

didn't have an easy time of it at the meeting. He said, as he prepared to deliver his report, that he didn't expect an armchair ride: "I'm sure that I won't be able to satisfy everyone."

Sperl said that even with an open-minded attitude, it would be a long time before homosexuals were accepted in the church as valued members and workers and not just as statistics.

He said that despite the liberal attitude of the church of Luther, marriage for homosexuals was a long way off.

It became clear at the meeting that it was not only the church that had problems with the issue of homosexuality. Josuttis said the church only reflected the prejudices and worries of society. There was already concern on all sides.

Pastor Bernhard Wolf, an academy official, said there was a great fear of urges and feelings. Feelings could "extend beyond us and confuse us and make us unsure."

Forms of homosexual sub-cultures such as the male prostitute scene were a step further into this confusion.

Professor Helmut Kentler, who teaches in Hanover and admits himself to being homosexual, demands from both sides of the sexual fence that sexuality be considered as a form of communication.

He told the meeting that his own sexuality was a "body language". Like other languages, there were a variety of dialects, in this case homosexuality and heterosexuality, that could and must be learnt.

It was no wonder that Adolf Sperl, a member of the Bavarian church synod,

do the cleaning, and what would many local communities do without the Turkish dustmen. Most guest workers do the hard, dirty jobs. Many companies could not carry on without them, car companies, mining, textiles and plastic processing firms.

First estimates show that about 140,000 guest workers left West Germany and about 300,000 foreigners in all, never to return. Nevertheless the programme will not be repeated.

Quite plainly the reason is money, so it is said in the Employment Ministry.

In a cautious re-calculation officials have been shocked to discover that state insurance organisations have had to provide about DM2.3 billion in pension contributions for foreigners. They had originally reckoned on between DM600 and DM700 million. This was a blow for pension funds that are already in trouble.

The Turkish government has given assurances that there will be no insistence on freedom of movement from this target-date, but they have this right by international law.

A few years ago, when Mohammed was back in Pakistan on holiday, his eyes alighted on a maidenly form 20 years his junior. They got married quite legally under Pakistani law.

The ways of the world being as they are, the girl is still in Pakistan, the Mohammed's child. And Mohammed in Germany. With his wife of 60 years.

Muslim law in Pakistan, the teacher said, allows a man to have four wives.

But, the court ruled that the matter is in fact a matter of German law.

It also ruled as irrelevant the appeal given by the German wife for her in Pakistan to join them.

Under German law, the extra work would have none of the normal protection afforded a wife.

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